

obtusata Rehder, Möller's Deutsch. Gärt.-Zeit. XVIII. 577. 1903. Leaves oval to oblong-obovate, rounded at both ends or only slightly narrowed, at the apex furnished with an obtuse yellowish mucro, 4–7 cm. long and 2.3–3.7 cm. broad, dark green above and on both sides with a conspicuous yellow midrib; petioles stout scarcely 1 cm. long. Like the preceding form this is of slow growth and forms a compact bush, the broad obtuse stiff leaves resembling those of *Rhododendron catawbiense* except that they are smaller. This form is in cultivation at the Arnold Arboretum since 1886, when it was propagated from a plant discovered a short time ago by Mr. James Bowditch near Pomfret, Connecticut.

ARNOLD ARBORETUM.

REPORTS ON THE FLORA OF THE BOSTON DISTRICT,—VI.

ALISMACEAE.

ALISMA.

A. *Plantago-aquatica* L. Shallow water with muddy bottom, throughout.

ECHINODORUS.

E. *tenellus* (Martius) Buchenau. "Near Mt. Auburn, Cambridge" (*Thomas P. James*, 1868 and August, 1869); "On margin of pond, north side Watertown road above R. R. station at Mt. Auburn, Cambridge" (*Wm. Boott*, Aug. 31, 1869); "Mud Pond, Watertown Road" (*Thomas P. James*, September, 1873). Muddy shore of Winter Pond, Winchester, various collections since 1876. These are the only New England stations ever reported for this very rare plant.

LOPHOTOCARPUS.

L. *spongiosus* (Engelm.) J. G. Sm. Alewife Brook, W. Cambridge (*Wm. Boott*, Aug. 21, 1870); Mystic River (*Wm. Boott*, September, 1863 and Aug. 12, 1868); bank of Mystic Pond (*Wm. Boott*, Oct. 1, 1876); Woburn Pond (*Wm. Boott*, Aug. 21, 1863); tidal river flats, Newburyport (*A. A. Eaton*, 1898; *M. L. Fernald*, Oct. 2, 1902).

SAGITTARIA.

S. Engelmanniana J. G. Sm. Muddy or peaty soil around ponds and wet places. Ponkapog Pond, Canton and Randolph (*J. R. Churchill*, July 19, 1870; *G. G. Kennedy*, Sept. 3, 1888; *C. H. Knowlton*, Aug. 1, 1908); Milton (*A. W. Cheever*, Aug. 14, 1905); Grassy Pond, Acton (*J. R. Churchill*, Aug. 4, 1888); Gleason's Pond and small unnamed ponds, Framingham (*A. J. Eames*, Sept. 5, 1908); Long Pond, Tewksbury (*Wm. Boott*, Aug. 24, 1865); Round or Priest Pond, Tewksbury (*H. H. Bartlett*, Sept. 21, 1905. "Reproduces also by long flagelliform stolons with a winter bud at end").

S. graminea Michx. Shallow water; scattered stations in northern half of district.

S. heterophylla Pursh. Canal bed, S. Lawrence (*A. S. Pease*, July 9, 1902).

S. heterophylla Pursh, var. **rigida** (Pursh) Engelm. Newbury (*A. A. Eaton*, July 28, 1903).

S. latifolia Willd. Wet places throughout, common. All the forms represented in Gray's Manual have been reported.

S. subulata (L.) Buchenau, var. (?) **gracillima** (Wats.) J. G. Sm. Paul's Bridge, Neponset River, Milton; Charles River in Newton, Needham and Natick; Waban Brook, Wellesley. "Concord River" (*A. W. Hosmer*. See RHODORA, i. 224. 1899).

S. teres Wats. Sandy Pond, Lincoln (*A. W. Hosmer*. See RHODORA, l. c.). The only authentic report from north of Cape Cod.

HYDROCHARITACEAE.

ELODEA.

E. canadensis Michx. Quiet water of ponds and streams; North Andover, Cambridge, Medford, Wayland; also Charles River near Wellesley.

VALLISNERIA.

V. spiralis L. Deep still water; scattered stations in northern half of district. The earliest record is by Wm. Boott, who collected the plant in Mystic Pond, Aug. 26, 1853.

ARACEAE.**ACORUS.**

A. Calamus L. Swamps and borders of still waters, common throughout.

ARISAEMA.

A. triphyllum (L.) Schott. Rich moist woods, common and abundant.

CALLA.

C. palustris L. Very wet muddy places. We have no records from the southeastern section, but the plant occurs sparingly throughout the rest of the district.

PELTANDRA.

P. virginica (L.) Kunth. Wet meadows and muddy shores, frequent throughout.

SYMPLOCARPUS.

S. foetidus (L.) Nutt. Wet woods and swamps; common and abundant throughout.

LEMNACEAE.**LEMNA.**

L. minor L. Still water, common in central part of the area.

L. trisulca L. Fresh Pond, Cambridge (*Wm. Boott*, August, 1859; *C. E. Perkins*, July 17, 1879); Glacialis, Cambridge (*J. Murdoch, Jr.*, May 7, 1904); Lincoln (*E. F. Williams*, Sept. 5, 1902); "Alewife Brook below bridge on the Powderhouse Road, Medford" (*Wm. Boott*, Nov. 3, 1867).

L. valdiviana Philippi. Nooks in slow streams; Monatiquot Stream, Blue Hill Reservation; and Beaver Brook, Sharon.

SPIRODELA.

S. polyrhiza (L.) Schleid. Still water; frequent in northern half of district, but not reported from the southern towns.

ERIOCAULACEAE.

ERIOCAULON.

E. septangulare With. Borders of ponds, emersed or in water of varying depth, common.

XYRIDACEAE.

XYRIS.

X. caroliniana Walt. Wet places, rather common. Not reported from southeastern towns.

X. flexuosa Muhl. Wet places, rare, Essex Co. (no date. Specimens in Herb. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist.¹); Concord (*Miss F. C. Prince*, no date. Specimens in Herb. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist.); Boston (— *Boott*, 1830. Specimens in Herb. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist.²).

X. Smalliana Nash. Wet places on borders of ponds; Acton, Essex, Littleton, Milton, Tewksbury, also shores of Ponkapaug Pond in Canton and Randolph. Wm. Oakes collected this species in a pond in Middleton before July 31, 1848, the date of his death. Specimen in Herb. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist.

¹ It is possible that these specimens were collected by William Oakes, but the handwriting on the label is not sufficiently conclusive.

² There is a special interest attaching to these specimens of Boott's. They are four in number, three of them being mounted and one loose in a paper pocket. The label reads "Xyris Jupicai, Boston. From Boott, 1830." The first three words are in the handwriting of Francis Boott, while the last three are in an unknown hand and are inserted on the lower left-hand corner of the label. The date, 1830, evidently refers to the time when Francis Boott presented the specimens. He could not have collected the plants in Boston in 1830, for Dr. Asa Gray says, in an obituary notice published in the *Amer. Journ. Sci. and Arts* for March, 1864, "In the year 1820 Dr. Boott crossed the Atlantic for the last time, and, proceeding to London, entered upon the study of medicine." Dr. Boott might have collected the specimens before he sailed for Europe. It does not seem at all likely that his brother William made the collection, for his active work began much later, after 1853 or thereabouts, as the numberless labels, accompanying his specimens deposited in the Gray Herbarium, show.

It seems very likely that the plants were collected by another brother, John Wright Boott, about whom comparatively little is known. He was born in 1788 or 1789 and lived with his brother William on the present site of the Revere House, Boston. A beautiful garden adjoined the house. In the summer of 1816 John ascended Mt. Moosilauke in New Hampshire with his brother Francis, but the most interesting fact that we know of him is in connection with *Prenanthes Boottii* (DC.) Gray, the small composite of the alpine regions of northern New England and New York. Doubtless few botanists are aware that this plant was named for John Wright Boott. He collected it in the White Mountains of New Hampshire in 1829 and sent it to London to his brother Francis, who in turn sent it to Geneva to De Candolle. De Candolle named the plant for the collector *Nabalus Boottii* and kept the specimen in his herbarium in Geneva. Prof. M. L. Fernald, when in Geneva in 1903, photographed the sheet, and prints are at the Gray Herbarium. The original label is in Francis Boott's handwriting and reads as follows, "Prenanthes —? from White Mountains North America above the woods J. W. Boott 1829." Another label in DeCandolle's handwriting reads, "Nabalus Boottii DC." John Wright Boott died by suicide on March 7, 1845, and lies buried at Mount Auburn. [W. D.]

COMMELINACEAE.

COMMELINA.

C. communis L. Waste places; Boston, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Dover, Winchester.

TRADESCANTIA.

T. virginiana L. Waste places; Ashland, Framingham, Marshfield, Needham, Walpole.

PONTEDERIACEAE.

HETERANTHERA.

H. dubia (Jacq.) MacM. Pleasant Pond, Wenham (*G. E. Davenport*, Aug. 16, 1875. Specimen in Gray Herb.)

PONTEDERIA.

P. cordata L. Muddy ponds and streams, common throughout.

C. H. KNOWLTON	} <i>Committee on Local Flora.</i>
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RAMALINA MONTAGNAEI DeNot., ON LONG ISLAND.—Messrs. D. P. and J. E. P. Morgan brought me, in October, abundant material of this Austral lichen from Southampton, Long Island, N. Y., collected on cedars, September 15, 1909. Both the plant and spores are quite typical, the latter measuring μ 24–32 \times 4–5. This is the northernmost locality from which this lichen has been reported, having never been collected, so far as I am aware, north of South Carolina (*Ravenel*). The insular climate, and proximity to the Gulf Stream, explains no doubt its presence in this latitude.

Examples are deposited in the author's herbarium (No. 1677), also in Dr. L. W. Riddle's, Wellesley, Mass., and in the herbarium of Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.—R. HEBER HOWE, JR., Thoreau Museum, Concord, Massachusetts.